

Avenir Suisse Freedom Index 2024

Aargau takes the gold

Each year, the Avenir Suisse Freedom Index assesses the economic and social freedoms in every canton. This year, a total of 29 indicators were evaluated. All data is available in an interactive Excel document. The canton of Aargau comes out on top. Latin cantons stand in stark contrast to the German-speaking cantons.

In this year's ranking, Aargau is the most liberal canton. It is the only canton to achieve a good result in the economic *and* social sub-indexes, reaching third place in both. It is followed by our eastern neighbor, the Principality of Liechtenstein which has been standing out for years. Appenzell Ausserrhoden takes the overall third place.

Zug continues to shine as the canton with the most economic freedom but only places 23rd in the social freedom ranking. In that department, Zurich and Bern, the two biggest cantons, come in 18th and 21st place, whereas Zurich is not doing too terribly in terms of economic freedoms, reaching 8th place. The cantons of Jura and Vaud face the same situation as Zug: they stand at the top of the social freedom ranking, but at the bottom of the economic freedom ranking. The cantons of Valais and Uri find themselves at the bottom of the general ranking.

Characteristic differences between German-speaking Switzerland and Latin cantons

German-speaking cantons scored particularly well in the economic indicators. In this sub-index, Schwyz and Aargau join Zug on the podium. The Latin cantons, on the other hand, all occupy the last seven places. The situation is quite different in the social freedom ranking: with the exception of Valais, all the Latin cantons rank among the top 10, while most of the German-speaking cantons find themselves in the bottom half of the ranking.

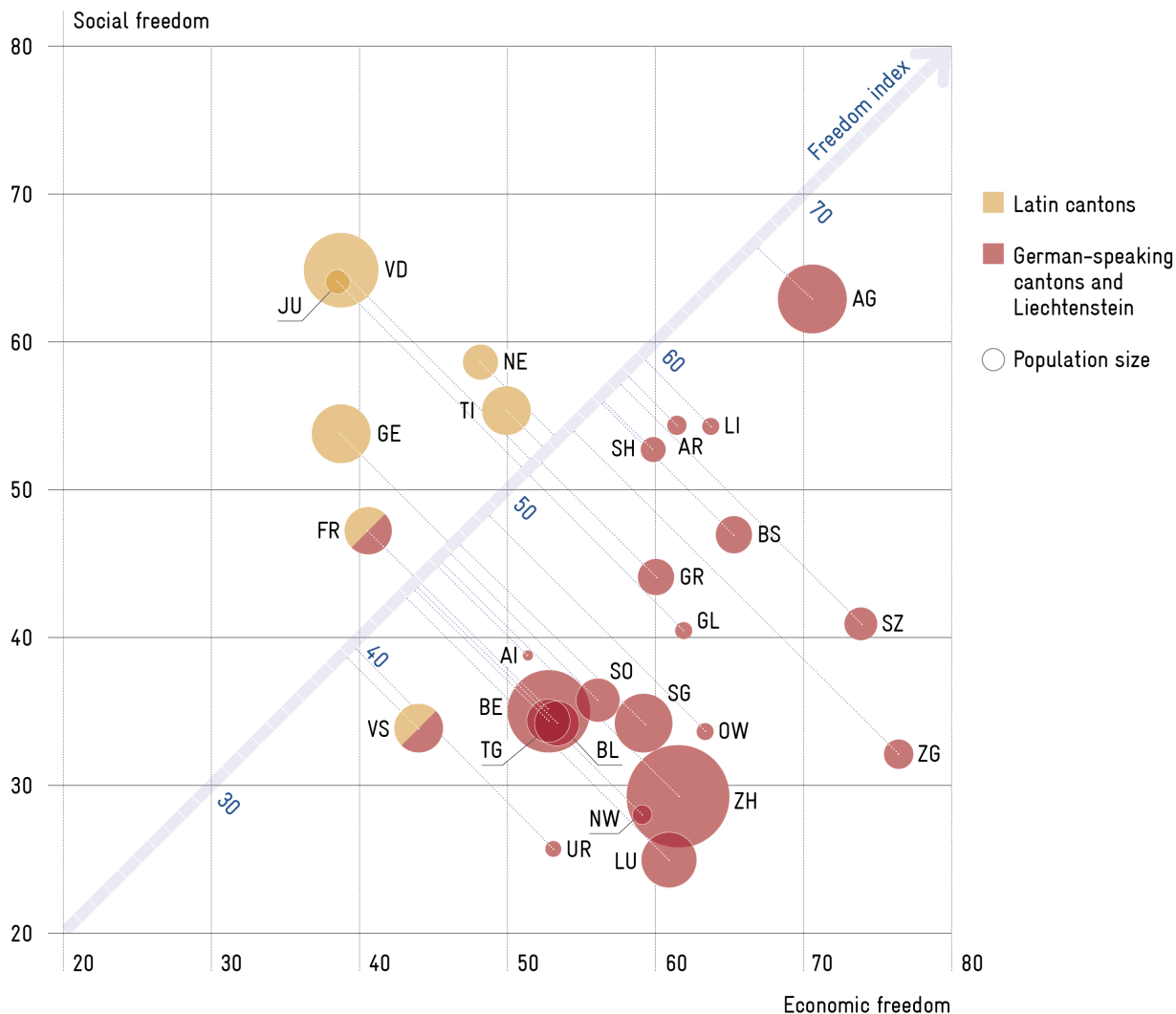
New method and data availability

This year, all data is available in an Excel document. In addition to the index scores and rankings, all values for the individual indicators can also be found there. Furthermore, the Freedom Index is interactive, which means that each indicator can be individually selected to create an index according to one's preferences.

Finally, when comparing this year's edition of the Freedom Index with previous years, caution is advised. The calculation method for indexing each value has been simplified: indicators can reach a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 100 points. This makes it much easier to interpret values. These, along with some other changes in the method, have contributed to some significant shifts in the ranking of certain cantons. The authors of the study are happy to provide information on the reasons for the ranking of a particular canton.

Economic and social freedom at a glance

The graphic shows the sub-index for economic freedom on the horizontal axis and the sub-index for social freedom on the vertical axis. The further to the upper right a canton is located, the better its freedom index.



Source: Own representation

Figure: Avenir Suisse

Publication: “Avenir Suisse Freedom Index 2024”, Lukas Rühli, Eveline Hutter, Jan Marty;

Available online from **11 December 2024, 05.00 am** at: avenir-suisse.ch/en

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